

DIGITISED DRUGS: HAVE CHIP, WILL TRIP!

An unnamed senior analyst from Britain's National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) "went off the deep end" at the September 1999 crime-fighting conference in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, sponsored by the FBI and the George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies.

The analyst claimed that "digitised drugs"—non-chemical narcotics or hallucinogens transmitted across the Internet by criminals to create new forms of addiction—could eventually replace heroin, crack cocaine or LSD.

This new generation of drugs, whose effects can be experienced without the need to possess illegal chemicals, involves implanting into the body a silicon chip able to pick up a signal that delivers "highs" every bit as addictive as the smartest designer drugs.

(Source: *Intelligence*, no. 106, 8 November 1999, p. 6; see also *NEXUS 6/05 Science News*, "From Water Memory to Digital Biology", by Dr Jacques Benveniste, and *Global News 6/01*, "Molecular memory could be transmitted by e-mail".)

TRANSCIVER IMPLANT CAN BE SATELLITE-TRACKED

Applied Digital Solutions, Inc. of Palm Beach, Florida, USA, recently announced that it has acquired the patent



rights to a miniature digital transceiver—which it has named "Digital Angel"—that can be used for a variety of purposes, such as providing a tamper-proof means of identification for enhanced e-business security, locating lost or missing individuals, tracking the location of valuable property and monitoring the medical conditions of at-risk patients.

The implantable transceiver sends and receives data and can be continuously tracked by GPS (global positioning system) satellite technology.

The transceiver's power supply and actuation system are unlike anything ever created. When implanted within a body, the

device is powered electromechanically through the movement of muscles, and it can be activated either by the "wearer" or by the monitoring facility.

A novel sensation-feedback feature will even allow the wearer to control the device to some degree. The "smart" device is also small enough to be hidden inconspicuously on, or within, valuable personal belongings and priceless works of art.

Commenting on Digital Angel's many potential applications, Richard J. Sullivan, Chairman and CEO of Applied Digital Solutions, Inc. (ADS), said: "Although we're in the early developmental phase, we expect to come forward with applications in many different areas, from medical monitoring to law enforcement."

Sullivan added that the multi-purpose technology would enable ADS to tap into a vast global market with an estimated total value in excess of US\$100 billion.

(Source: *Applied Digital Solutions, Inc.*, 17 December 1999, www.adxs.com/news/)

STANDOFF OVER PINE GAP TREATY EXTENSION

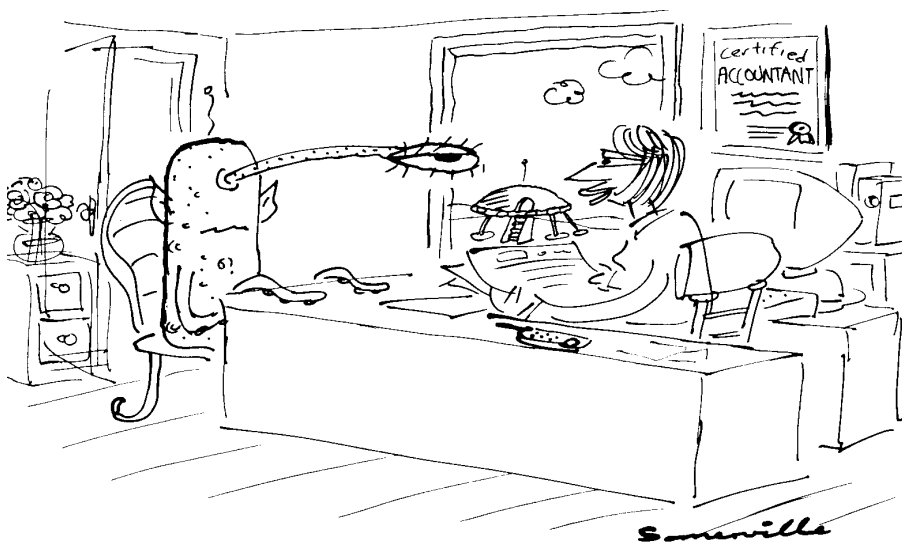
The Australian Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee recently stated that it cannot obtain enough information about the purpose or operation of the secret United States satellite intelligence base at Pine Gap in the Northern Territory.

The Committee was denied full access to the Alice Springs base, which is officially operated by Australian intelligence and the CIA when it is, in reality, a US National Security Agency (NSA) base.

Describing the standoff as "untenable", the Committee says it cannot make a positive finding on the treaty to extend the operation of Pine Gap for a further 10 years.

The last time this happened, the Australian [Whitlam] Labor government was simply dismissed—by "friends of the US". This time, Labor is in the Opposition and has issued a report saying the treaty should not be extended until the Committee is given a copy of the secret 1966 agreement which established the base.

(Source: *Intelligence*, no. 106, 8 November 1999, p. 31)



"Three billion light years? Yes, we could have claimed that as business travel if you'd come by car."

ASIO'S NEW POWERS THREATEN OUR PRIVACY

On 29 November 1999, ASIO (the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation) received approval to hack personal computers and bug online communications under the new ASIO Amendment Bill, which is a technology update based on the recommendations of the Walsh Report—a secret review of security arrangements, made by former ASIO Deputy Director Gerard Walsh.

The Bill goes even further, by: enabling ASIO to access money-laundering records compiled by the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC); allowing the organisation to share data with foreign criminal-intelligence bodies; limiting ASIO's requirement to disclose information to the Minister; and permitting ASIO to charge fees for providing intelligence services.

(Source: Intelligence, no. 108, 13 December 1999, p. 31)

USA LOSING THE DRUGS WAR

Late last October, retired US Army General Barry McCaffrey, 56, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and better known as the US "drug tsar", arrived in Western Europe to "read the gospel" to the pagans and was met with equally fervent public opposition.

McCaffrey was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1996 and is now in charge of a \$17.8-billion federal drug control budget. He had been an adviser to President Clinton on Latin American internal security policy.

McCaffrey's somewhat categorical statements concerning drugs have often been contradicted by US and other international officials.

One of his more controversial claims concerns the Netherlands and its liberal drug policies of providing needle exchanges for addicts and sanctioning the sale of cannabis in regulated cannabis cafés. "The murder rate in Holland is double that in the United States, and the per capita crime rates are much higher than the United States," he said last year. "That's drugs."

The Dutch Ambassador to the US responded that McCaffrey's claims had "no basis in fact". The figures quoted by McCaffrey showed that the US had a rate of 8.2 murders per 100,000 population,

compared with 17.58 in Holland. But he had included the Dutch "attempted murders" figure when the true figure was 1.8 per 100,000—less than a quarter of the American murder rate.

McCaffrey didn't mention the fact that the US heroin addiction rate is about eight times the Dutch rate, thus disproving that cannabis is a "gateway drug" to heroin addiction.

When he last visited the Netherlands, his figures on Dutch drug use were publicly corrected in his presence. During that reception, he mentioned (off the record): "Your heroin addicts sure look in good shape."

It could be that the Dutch are doing something right, and 60,000 young people aren't being "warehoused" in prisons for marijuana offences—as in the US where prisons have now become America's second-largest industry.

On 4 November 1999, in an unexpected open letter, prominent leaders from the Americas declared the costly US-led drug war an unmitigated failure and urged the anti-drug officials to call a halt to the so-called "war on drugs".

The letter to delegates at the Washington anti-drugs conference was signed by politicians, jurists, doctors, artists and religious leaders, and stated that the approach of "prohibition enforced by a militarized drug war is fundamentally flawed" and that "It is time to admit that, after two decades, the US war on drugs is a failure".

(Source: Intelligence, no. 106, 8 November 1999, pp. 1, 8)

ARE PHOTOCOPIERS DESIGNED TO KEEP TABS ON US?

Recently we were forwarded the following item from one J. J. Johnson. We hope to publish updates as they come to hand. Ed.

It started off innocently enough. Due an identification problem with my local phone company, I went out to get color copies of both my driver's licence and my social security card. The day was Saturday, November 20, 1999. I went to the local Kinko's Copies. It was a simple request. The supervisor took my ID and made a black and white copy, then handed it to me.

"Excuse me," I said. "I asked for color copies."

He responded that he could not do that. "It's illegal," he replied.

I asked him to explain his statement and he told me it had to do with people who might engage in counterfeiting. He was not accusing me, since it was obvious the photo on the Nevada driver's licence matched my face. I offered a compromise.

"What if you just copied them and ran a red line through them so they could not be copied again?"

His response is what makes this story so hot.

"Sir, all these machines place invisible codes on the copies. If the Secret Service tracked this back to this store and me, I would be in big trouble."

If this last statement raises your eyebrows, you are not alone. It also caught the attention of at least seven other people at Kinko's that morning who were copying



... GLOBAL NEWS ...

their own documents. In fact, for about four to five seconds, all activity at this Kinko's stopped—meaning that this was not widely known information.

"Secret Service?" I asked.

The customers also waited for an answer. The Kinko's supervisor repeated the same statement again. In shock, I walked away and paid for my copies.

But there's more: After paying, I was compelled to return to this person and thank him for this information. But I wanted to talk to him alone and press for more information. I found him with another customer, converting computer documents from IBM to Mac format. When I approached, it was as if he already knew what I was thinking. I thanked him.

He replied: "It's not just Kinko's. The same thing will happen everywhere. All the machines are like that. I personally know that Xerox had to sign a contract with the government in order to be allowed to sell them."

(Source: J. J. Johnson, 20 November 1999, www.jj-johnson.com/)

POWER OF PRAYER CONFIRMED?

Don't panic if you haven't. According to a study just published in *Archives of Internal Medicine* (vol. 159, p. 2273), prayers can help patients recover, even when they don't know that people are praying for them.

William Harris, of Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, studied patients who came to the hospital's coronary care unit, and found that the 466

patients in the group who were prayed for had a significantly better outcome than the 524 patients who received no prayer.

Harris believes his study is as rigorous as most drug trials. "If people are willing to accept the outcome of a drug study...they have to accept this one, too," he says.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 13 November 1999)

BREAKING THE BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER

Researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA, have identified a receptor in the human brain that regulates the interface between the bloodstream and the brain—the so-called "blood-brain barrier".

The findings, published in the *Journal of Neurochemistry* (January 2000 issue), could lead to a new understanding of this nearly impenetrable barrier and to treatment of diseases that affect the brain.

The blood-brain barrier is a collection of cells that press together to block many substances from entering the brain, while allowing others to pass. For years, scientists knew little about how this barrier is regulated or why certain diseases are able to manipulate the barrier and infect the brain.

Research conducted at the University of Maryland School of Medicine found that two proteins, known as *zonulin* and *zot*, unlock the cell barrier in the intestine. The proteins attach themselves to receptors in the intestine to open the junctions between the cells and allow substances to be absorbed. The new research indicates that

zonulin and *zot* also react with similar receptors in the brain.

"The identification of these proteins in the human brain holds the promise of allowing us to deliver new types of medications across the blood-brain barrier. It would be a boon to humanity if the blood-brain barrier could be opened briefly, and safely, to allow passage of a new generation of drugs into the brain," says co-author Ronald Zielke, PhD, professor of paediatrics and director of the brain and tissue bank at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

(Source: *University of Maryland Medical Center*, 4 January 2000, www.umm.edu/)

SATELLITES TO STOP SPEEDING CARS IN THEIR TRACKS

British and European drivers might soon be automatically stopped from speeding by an electronic device that could be fitted to all cars within 10 years.

The system uses satellite navigation to pinpoint the location of each vehicle, an in-car computer loaded with a road map and the speed limits for each street in the country, and a device to cut off the fuel supply if the speed limits are exceeded.

Researchers predict that the equipment, expected to cost only a few hundred pounds per car, will come to be widely accepted as a life-saver—just as seat-belts were, despite the fierce resistance initially.

The trials were commissioned by the UK Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions and were carried out by a team at Leeds University together with the Motor Industry Research Association.

Their final report is expected to recommend a 10-year phasing-in period, with the system initially voluntary for older models, compulsory for all new cars by 2005 and mandatory by the end of the decade.

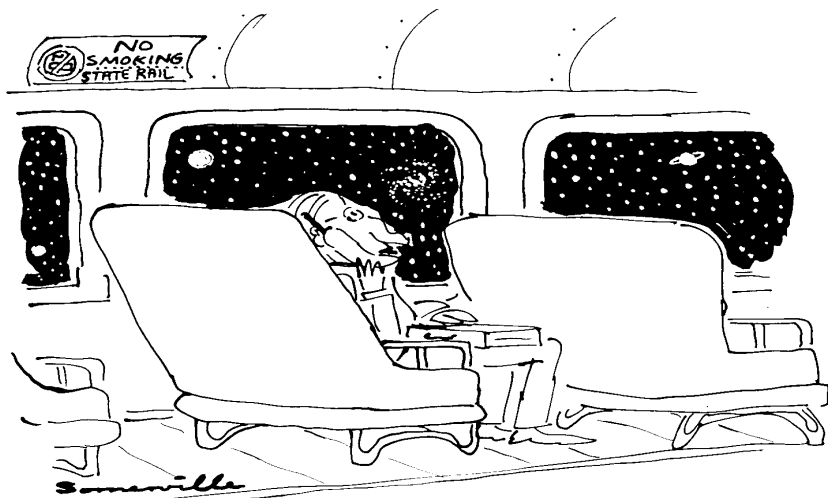
(Source: *Sightings*, 4 January 2000, www.sightings.com)

SECURITY SYSTEM AIMS TO 'TRIP-UP' CRIMINALS

A new security system being developed in Britain can identify individuals by the unique way in which they walk.

Unlike faces and irises, someone's gait can be spotted from a great distance with low-resolution cameras, and so be observed from just about any angle.

A gait is also very difficult to mask, says Mark Nixon, a computer scientist at Southampton University's Image, Speech



"Honey, sorry to keep you waiting at the station, but I think I nodded off and missed my stop."

and Intelligent Systems group. "When people rob banks, they tend to wear motor-bike helmets or some form of disguise," he explains. But you can't disguise your walk without drawing attention to yourself or impeding your escape.

(Source: *AI in Engineering*, vol. 13, p. 359; *New Scientist*, 4 December 1999)

DENTISTRY PROFESSOR'S BACKFLIP ON FLUORIDATION

Dr Hardy Limeback, DDS, PhD, head of Preventive Dentistry at the University of Toronto and a spokesperson for the Canadian Dental Association for over 12 years, has announced that he no longer supports fluoridation of drinking water.

Dr Limeback's opposition to fluoridation came about after he reviewed the scientific literature and concluded that there is very little, if any, dental benefit from swallowing fluoride. "In my opinion," he says, there is no question that the risks now far outweigh the benefits."

Further, Dr Limeback says that fluoride can adversely affect bones and teeth. "Fluoride accumulates in the bones [and] there hasn't been a single study to show that exposure over a lifetime is safe."

(Source: *Earth Island Journal*, Fall 1999)

THE OCEANS ARE LEAKING!

Researchers in Japan have calculated that the oceans are leaking water into the Earth's mantle five times as quickly as it is being replenished.

Geoscientists believe that a huge reservoir of water is bound up in minerals in the transition zone between the upper and lower mantles, approx. 400 kilometres (250 miles) below the Earth's surface. Water enters the mantle at subduction zones, where oceanic crustal plates dive under continental plates. It returns to the surface at volcanic hot spots and mid-ocean ridges. However, most researchers have assumed that these flows are roughly in balance.

Shigenori Maruyama and colleagues at the Tokyo Institute of Technology have reached a different conclusion. They figure that, each year, around 1.12 billion tonnes of ocean water seeps into the mantle's transition zone, yet they can account for only 0.23 billion tonnes moving in the opposite direction.

"The world's oceans will dry up within a billion years," Maruyama speculates.

(Sources: *New Scientist*, 11 September 1999; *Daily Mail*, London, 9 Sept 1999)

CHECHNYA – THE LAST OIL RUSH OF THE 20TH CENTURY

by Brian Becker

In a book published in 1997, Zbigniew Brzezinski, former United States national security adviser, wrote: "For America, the chief geopolitical prize is Eurasia. Most of the world's physical wealth is there as well, both in its enterprises and underneath its soil." Brzezinski's comments are useful to keep in mind when analysing the current conflict raging in Chechnya. This autonomous region, located in southern Russia, is at the pivot of Europe and Asia.

Why is the Yeltsin [and now the Putin] regime in Russia carrying out its brutal aerial assault against the separatist rebel movement in Chechnya? Because the Russian Government now fears that the Pentagon and CIA are moving aggressively to grab the former territories of the USSR, especially in the oil-rich Caspian Sea area. This is the same government that has done so much to try to please the United States capitalist establishment since it dissolved the Soviet Union in 1991.

Chechnya and Dagestan, where fighting has raged for the last four months, are territories close to the Caspian Sea. The Caspian has vast oil and natural gas deposits.

A consortium of 11 oil monopolies from the United States and Europe has gained control of more than 50 per cent of the region's oil since the USSR was dissolved in 1991. The July 6, 1997 *Washington Post* described this process as the "last great oil rush of the 20th century—targeted at a potential US\$4 trillion patch in Central Asia's Caspian Sea".

The Yeltsin [now Putin] government in Russia asserts that the United States is stimulating, if not directly supporting, the Islamic separatist movement in Chechnya.

"The national interests of the US correspond to a scenario in which an armed conflict is constantly smouldering in the northern Caucasus," Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeev said in a recent news conference.

A few days later, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Avdeyev said at an international conference organised by the Russian Diplomatic Academy that the country may be heading for a direct conflict with the United States.

These were not accidental or isolated comments by Russian officials. The US has a "...growing readiness to use military force in its direct, most crude form at various levels...the [US] operations in Kosovo and Iraq only herald this readiness. We must assume that it may extend to others, including former Soviet territories," said Anatoly Kvashnin, the military head of the General Staff, in a speech to the same conference.

THE POLITICS OF AN OIL PIPELINE

Before the USSR was dissolved in a US-backed capitalist counter-revolution in 1991, the Caspian Sea was bordered on the east, west and north by the Soviet Union. Now that its former republics are formally independent, five countries border the Caspian. These include Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, as well as Russia and Iran.

The United States Government is now attempting to take control over the Caspian Sea oil by transforming the non-Russian former Soviet republics into virtual colonies and grabbing control of the vast oil and gas resources that were once used to fuel socialist construction in the Soviet Union.

"The prospects of potentially enormous hydrocarbon reserves is part of the allure of the Caspian region," the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in a December 1998 report. "New transportation routes will be necessary to carry Caspian oil and gas to world markets" according to the EIA.

Why is a new Caspian oil pipeline necessary? According to the EIA, because "the existing pipelines were designed to link the Soviet Union internally, and were routed through Russia".

On November 18, President Bill Clinton and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson met with the presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikstan and Turkey to announce plans to construct a new, US\$2.4-billion oil pipeline from Baku, Azerbaijan, to Ceyhan, the Mediterranean port in Turkey. The new pipeline entirely bypasses Russia. It is calculated to turn the Caspian into an "American lake".

Throughout the Cold War, United States policymakers insisted that they opposed Soviet socialism because it deprived people of "personal liberty" and "stifled individual initiative in the free market". But now it's easy to see that their hatred of the USSR was based on it having prevented US corporations from exploiting the land and resources of the Soviet Union.

(Source: *Workers World Newspaper*, 9 December 1999, www.workers.org)